



Presentation by Amnesty International Kenya  
to the 2022 National Bishops and Clerics of the Anglican Church of Kenya  
A Wholesome Living For A Wholesome Nation Conference

The signs of decay have been with us for some time;

- A zimbabwean woman diplomat sexually assaulted in broad daylight in her car along a road named after one of most revered women's rights and climate church activist Wangari Maathai, herself an Anglican;
- Alvin Chivondo sentenced to one year for stealing Kshs 3,000 of food after his family had gone hungry for three days;
- 15 year old Ebbie Samuels, battered to death by a school administrator, three years on, her family still waits for justice;
- Three million hungry and 28 million people deprived of their basic rights;
- 167 summary executions and 30 enforced disappearances in the custody of police officers with God's children dumped in God's rivers;
- Debt repayment to foreign Governments now surpasses expenditure on domestic citizens;
- No political party or candidate yet offering a comprehensive human rights based vision that can restore the soul of our nation.

All persons of all faiths must ask and answer one inconvenient question this morning. Regardless of the outcome of the 2022 election, is wholesome living in a wholesome nation possible amidst such poverty, inequity and cruelty? What would it take from all the ministers of the Anglican Church?

To restore the soul of our nation, ministers must take an intersectional approach rooted in the moral conviction that we are all children of God. We are interconnected regardless of our last names, class, age or religion. If there a place that we are told human rights are universal and indivisible, it is in the bible. Jesus, the only son of God, was not only the refugee, the poor, the homeless and the persecuted, he was also the most famous victim of an extra-judicial killing.

To restore the soul of our nation, the voice and agency of all Anglican ministers under the leadership of His Grace Jackson ole Sapit must be repeatedly heard in all the parishes, social media platforms and across the nation. Luke 4:18 is unequivocal about this. In it it proclaims "The Spirit of the Lord is on me. He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind and to set the oppressed free," In the face of an uncertain future, what do you want for your parishioners? Under your leadership, will they prosper spiritually and economically or perish?

Let us reflect again this morning on what would be the personal and practical application of John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full and abundantly." What captivates your followers, their inner inhibitions, addictions, desires or cruelty today? How do these captivators enable the lowest levels of our society to dim our hopes, dictate our future, and desecrate the Kingdom of God here on earth? Are your parishes to be places of choice or places of convenience? What new actions could you as Ministers take?

Amnesty International is a movement of 17 million members and supporters. The breadth and diversity of people we protect and the issues we champion like the Anglican Church produces much debate within our movement. Many of our members are active Christians and call us to integrate our work and the word of God more closely. For this, I thank you on behalf of this movement for the opportunity to reason with you this morning. May your hearts and hands be eternally blessed.

**Irungu Houghton**

**Amnesty International Kenya Executive Director**

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